History of psychiatry

by

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To Linus and Hongi, young heroe mental patients

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Preface

This is a short critical history of scientific, modern psychiatry from the days of Nazi psychiatry onwards. It has been published as a series of blog posts on my blog https://larslars.blogg.se. It was held as a course in Öfverby Monastery School, a folk high school in Stockholm, where I am the principal.

We lack, in the psychiatric literature, a similar short summary of the history of psychiatry from a critical, anti-psychiatric stance, so I think this work fills an important hole in the literature.

This little treatise aims to reveal the horror of psychiatry in its roots, and guide the reader to deeper studies.

It is dedicated to all the brave martyrs of psychiatry, which all will receive the martyr crown on the Doomsday, both those who have been killed by psychiatry, and those who only have been tortured (although this is even worse than death) by it.

Lars Larsen, Stockholm, 30.5.2026

Course in psychiatry by Lars Larsen, human rights activist. Part 1: The history of psychiatry, section 1: The founders of modern "scientific" psychiatry

Emil Kraepelin (1856 –**1926**),
tysk rasbiolog/eugeniker, humangenetisk manipulatör, och framstående nazist. ENGLISH: German race biologist/eugenicist, humangenetic manipulator and renowned nazi. Founder of all modern psychiatry and modern psychopharmacology/medical torture. "*Mein Kampf*" by Adolf Hitler was published **1925**. The Nazi Party was founded **1920**.

Eugen Bleuler (1857 –1939), schweizisk rasbiolog/eugeniker, ableist och nazist. ENGLISH: Swiss race biologist, ableist and renowned nazi. Coined the term "schizophrenia" to be able to torture people.

Sigmund Freud (1856 –1939) var inte psykiatrins,
utan psykoanalysens grundare. Det är stor skillnad. Att tro att han var psykiatrins grundare är ett stort misstag. Freud har dock påverkat psykiatrin en hel del. Men Freud förföljdes av psykiatrins grundare och de övriga nazisterna. Men han själv var bottenlöst ond.

ENGLISH: Sigmund Freud (1856 –1939) was not the founder of psychiatry, but of psychoanalysis. The difference is big. To think him as the founder of psychiatry is a big mistake. Though, Freud has influenced psychiatry a whole lot. But Freud was persecuted by the founders of psychiatry and the rest of the nazis. But he himself was bottomlessly evil.

Ernst Rüdin (1874 – 1952), Swiss race biologist and nazi, eugenicist and geneticist, rising to prominence under Emil Kraepelin and assuming the directorship at the German Institute for Psychiatric Research in Munich. While he has been credited as a pioneer of psychiatric inheritance studies, he also argued for, designed, justified and funded the

mass sterilization and clinical killing of adults and children during the nazi era.

Josef Mengele (1911–1979), the nazi psychiatrist who was the father of psychiatric drug torture and the inventor of synthetic psychiatric medications. See this article for confirmation:

5-2022 "From Madness to Medicine: How Nazi Medical Experimentation Morphed into Today's Medical Field", by Alexandria Daughn Kerby:

https://digitalcommons.butler.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1635&context=ugtheses

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Eugenik är en synonym till rasbiologi. ENGLISH: Eugenics is a synonym for race biology.

"THE SCREAM". Course in psychiatry by Lars Larsen, human rights activist. Part 1: The history of psychiatry, section 2: The rise of the global anti-psychiatric movement

You find a short definition of the word "anti-psychiatry" on Wikipedia, here. That's a good starting point for our lesson.

The term "anti-psychiatry" was coined in 1912, and the movement emerged for real in the 1960s.

Famous French surrealist artist and mental patient Antonin Artaud (1896 –1948) openly criticized that any patient should be labeled as "mentally ill" as an exterior identification, as he notes in his 1925 *L'Ombilic des limbes* ("The Navel of Limbo", which consists of poetry and essays). Much influenced by the Dada and surrealist enthusiasms of the day, he considered dreams, thoughts and visions no less real than the "outside" world. Unfortunately he killed himself.

The learned and respected psychoanalyst Erich Fromm is said to have articulated, in the 1950s, the **secular humanistic concern** of the coming anti-psychiatry movement.

Famous postmodernist philosopher Michel Foucault (1926–1984) challenged the very basis of psychiatric practice and cast it as repressive and controlling. He wrote a seminal work in psychiatric philosophy and history, the book ***Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason*** (French: *Folie et Déraison – Histoire de la folie à l'âge classique*). It was published 1961, exactly when the anti-psychiatric movement exploded globally.

The Hungarian-American psychiatry professor and psychiatrist Thomas Szasz introduced the idea of mental illness being a myth in the book *The Myth of Mental Illness* (1961). He served for most of his career

as professor of psychiatry at the State University of New York Upstate Medical University.This is one of the most renowned universities in the world.

The view that insanity was not in most or even in any instances a "medical" entity, but a **moral issue**, was also held by Christian Scientists and many conservative Protestant fundamentalists.

Psychiatrists identified with the anti-psychiatry movement included Timothy Leary, R. D. Laing, Franco Basaglia, Theodore Lidz, Silvano Arieti, and David Cooper. Philosophers involved were Michel Foucault, Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari. Sociologists involved was people like Erving Goffman.

A milestone in the establishment of the anti-psychiatric movement was when Thomas Szasz collaborated with Scientology in 1969 to form the Citizens Commission on Human Rights (CCHR), the international watchdog of psychiatry, full of human rights activists, lawyers and judges. It is not very educated to think that CCHR is a religious organization, promoting Scientology. It's not true. **Szasz was the leading thinker here**, and he was an atheist. All who want to torture mental patients, come with this accusation, that CCHR is Scientology, is religion. They do not know anything about the subject. CCHR is **a secular human rights organization**, affiliated with the UN, working for UN and in UN. Szasz was not a scientologist himself and was completely non-religious, with a extreme disgust for modern witch-hunters. Tom Cruise (b.1962) was a scientologist, and raged against psychiatry, called it an "industry of death".

The most heavy name of antipsychiatry ever, and also its most learned and loving and empathic man, and the man who has done most for the mental patients, **by far**, is the Harvard University (the most renowned university in the world, Breggin's faculty was Harvard Medical School) psychiatry professor Peter Breggin (b.1936, he is still living, and is the grand old man of anti-psychiatry!), whose activism as a psychiatrist and university researcher and teacher led to the broad abandonment of

surgical lobotomy, or psychosurgery at large, in the 1990s, after having been very common in hospitals since the infamous Second World War nazi psychiatric lobotomies. Still it is practiced in some hospitals, unknown how many, though in secret because of Breggin's work. It has never been completely prohibited in international psychiatric law, because **mental patients lack any human rights whatsoever**, still. Globally. In all countries, no exceptions here (psychiatry is the real ruler on earth, no king or president whatsoever has a say here, not even UN). Mental patients **have no declaration of their human rights in UN, no such thing whatsoever, and international psychiatry have been lobbying and is lobbying still heavily for this to never ever happen, forever and ever and ever. But they will not get rid of me. I will SCREAM, a horrible SCREAM, with this academic lesson, taught for my students in "Öfverby klosterskola" ("Öfverby monastery school", a folk high school in Stockholm).**

Psychotropic drugs, especially neuroleptics/antipsychotics, are considered by many very learned experts to be **chemical lobotomy**, and I can witness, as a long time victim, that it is true, unfortunately. **It destroys the soul**, and the feelings of the soul are gone and never come back, until the hour of death. So also with the libido, the sex drive, in most cases.

Another milestone in the history of anti-psychiatry, was the founding of the "Mad in America"-movement, founded by the learned psychiatry professor Robert Whitaker. His book 2002 with the same name, founded this movement. The full name of his book was "***Mad in America: Bad Science, Bad Medicine, and the Enduring Mistreatment of the Mentally Ill*"**.

In the Nordic countries the reception of the anti-psychiatric movement was lukewarm, to say the least. The Nordic countries have always been the most repressive in the field of psychiatry, because of their open ties to nazism, and today, neo-nazism. The most renowned Swedish psychiatrist ever, Johan Cullberg (1934–2022), tried to fool his country that he wanted to reform psychiatry, but the opposite was true, and he

became **one of the most horrible psychiatrists that has ever lived, slimy like only the Swedes can be**. The departments of psychiatric care at Nacka Hospital, where I have been incarcerated, is one of the worst departments of psychiatry in the whole world, where you risk getting **punishment medication** with hyper-torture injections that are so horrible that there are no words to express it. I received one such, once upon a time, in March 2020, and it is the most horrible experience of my life, **by far**. My crime? I had destroyed a psychiatric care department TV in Gävle with urine water and written "JESUS" with big letters on many walls. I'm proud of that act of terror, and I want to have a court about it. When shall I get that court? It has been denied me, and that's very understandable.

But Denmark was better than Sweden. A milestone in the history of psychiatry was when a well-known Danish veteran professor of internal medicine, Peter C. Götzsche (1949) "came out of the closet" and SCREAMED, a horrible SCREAM, about the **horror** he witnessed in his practice as a professor of medicine and physician. In his world famous 2015 book *Deadly Psychiatry and Organised Denial*, Peter Gøtzsche claims that psychotropic drugs are minimally effective but **highly dangerous**, stating that 98% of users with mental disorders could discontinue them. Gøtzsche says national authorities should, **immediately** and **radically** revise psychiatric guidelines and open **discontinuation clinics** where mental patients can get all the help they need to quit these horrible drugs, which literally **destroys**, not just their souls, but also their bodies, albeit slowly. These drugs are some of the most difficult drugs to get rid of and quit, with potentially horrible abstinence complications, and sometimes, unfortunately, deaths.

But at last the anti-psychiatric movement came to Sweden. It happened for real 2018 when the philosopher Lars Larsen published his seminal work in psychiatric philosophy and psychiatric law, called "För mentalpatienters mänskliga rättigheter" ("For the human rights of mental patients"). This work was even more radical than that of Götzsche, and understandably so, thinking of what Cullberg had done in Sweden, **a matchless terror reign of systematical torture and abuse and**

humiliation with no end in sight, so it feels. Cullberg wanted the eternal hell, forever and ever and ever.

This sparked a movement that has not yet seen its full realization yet, because of the infamous Swedish psychiatric terror reign, worst in the world, **this movement has no official web site yet whatsoever**, but lives in a small forum or group on Facebook, named "Stoppa psykiatrins övergrepp NU!" ("Stop the abuses of psychiatry NOW!"), where I have been an active member. Though, this organization, founded by three activists, is a little seed of a beginning in the open day light, and we hope it will grow and be the seed of something great.

I strongly recommend mental patients and antipsychiatric professors to gather, RIGHT NOW, to create a professional website for the antipsychiatric movement in Sweden, seeking protection in American law and law practice, our best hope.

To Finland anti-psychiatry came in the 1980s with the world famous "Open Dialogue"-project, founded by psychiatry professor Yrjö Alanen (1927-2022) and led today by learned professor of psychotherapy Jaakko Seikkula (b.1953). This is the most famous psychiatric reform project in the world ever, with **extremely** good results, heavily documented, scientifically, for everyone to see. Finland has always been much better in psychiatry than Sweden, as they are in so many other areas, even in ice hockey.

Course in psychiatry, by Lars Larsen, human rights activist. Part 1: The history of psychiatry, section 3: Bibliography for deeper studies

Here are the most important books I recommend to read about the history of psychiatry, for deeper studies:

Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason (French: Folie et Déraison – Histoire de la folie à l'âge classique), a 1961 book by Michel Foucault. This is the standard book of critical psychiatric history. Read the book for free online, on the Internet Archive, here.

The myth of mental illness : foundations of a theory of personal conduct, by Thomas Szasz, 1961

The Manufacture of Madness: A Comparative Study of the Inquisition and the Mental Health Movement, by Thomas Szasz, Syracuse University Press, 1 apr. 1997 - 406 pages

Coercion as Cure: A Critical History of Psychiatry, by Thomas Szasz, Transaction Publishers, 31 dec. 2011 - 293 pages

The anti-psychiatry bibliography and resource guide, by Frank, K. Portland, 1943-, 1979

Deadly medicines and organised crime : how big pharma has corrupted healthcare, by Peter Gøtzsche, Publication date 2013.

Critical Psychiatry Textbook, by Peter Gøtzsche, 2022

Three important books by Robert Whitaker:

Mad In America: Bad Science, Bad Medicine, and The Enduring Mistreatment of the Mentally Ill, Perseus Publishing, December 24,

2001, ISBN 0-7382-0385-8

Anatomy of an Epidemic: Magic Bullets, Psychiatric Drugs, and the Astonishing Rise of Mental Illness in America, Crown, April 13, 2010, ISBN 978-0-307-45241-2

Psychiatry Under the Influence: Institutional Corruption, Social Injury, and Prescriptions for Reform, with Lisa Cosgrove, Palgrave Macmillan, April 23, 2015, ISBN 978-1137506924

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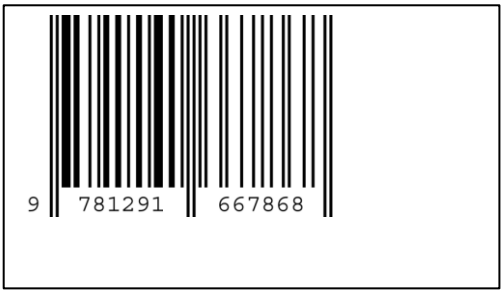
Here is a collection of freely readable online books on the history of psychiatry, on the library site Internet Archive, albeit they are of a lesser quality than those above.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